



## ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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General Gordon R. Sullivan  
United States Army (Ret.)  
President

12 May 2005

The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee  
House of Representatives  
2206 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Skelton:

On behalf of the over 100,000 members of the Association of the United States Army, I strongly oppose the amendment to H.R. 1815 that would prohibit the assignment of female members of the Army to Forward Support Companies. This is the wrong time to attempt to codify the role of women in combat. With our troops engaged in Global War on Terror, this proposed prohibition would be confusing and perplexing. To impose this restriction on commanders as they prepare for deployment would be detrimental to their units that have trained and readied together.

The Global War on Terror does not have a clear "front line." As the Secretary of the Army, Francis Harvey and Chief of Staff of the Army, General Peter J. Schoomaker, develop new force structure and tactics of employment for the brigade modularity forces, we believe it is best to allow Army leadership to complete their study that includes an evaluation of the assignment of women to Forward Support Companies. Currently the Army continues to comply with the Department of Defense policy on women in combat.

The Association of the United States Army supports current Department of Defense policy concerning the assignment of women in combat and strongly urges you not to include the proposed amendment in the final version of H.R. 1815.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon R. Sullivan".

GORDON R. SULLIVAN  
General, USA Retired

GRS/WBL/djs